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SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Hungary/USSR

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SUBJECT The Soviet Troops at Szombathely

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

During the period of observation, no large unit has moved into Szombathely. However, the units already stationed there were increased by the continuous arrival of small units, never in excess of 60 men. The Soviet units in Szombathely come under the jurisdiction of the 17th Guards Mechanized Division.

1. The so called "Army Corps" building was used as a barracks by a regiment of motorized infantry, numbering about 1,000 men whose collar insignia was black.
2. The Russian headquarters was located in the County Seat Building. This structure also served as the barracks for the Soviet military police, 300 men in all. They wore red armbands.
3. The Hiradó Laktanya, former signal corps barracks of the Hungarians, was occupied by a Soviet signal corps battalion, 600 strong. In the courtyard there usually were parked 12 motor vehicles with signal equipment. [REDACTED]
4. The Szabaria Hotel, an officers' club, was guarded by Soviet sentries who wore black insignia. The officers frequenting this club were field-grade officers.
5. The barracks situated on Kálvária utca (Galvary Street) were being used by about 1,000 men of a motorized infantry unit. The courtyard of the barracks was full of light trucks, about 500 of them, which were covered with shelter halves. [REDACTED] Men of these barracks were observed during the afternoon in setting up 120 mm caliber mortars, but no rounds were fired.

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6. The former cavalry barracks was occupied by an armored unit consisting of about 1,200 men, having black insignia with red trim.
 - a. On the field belonging to these barracks, 9 Stalin III tanks and 30 R-34 tanks were parked.
 - b. It has also been observed that during exercises the men rode the tanks to the center of the field and then jumped off while the tanks were proceeding at top speed.
7. The former artillery barracks on Parragvári Street was occupied by an artillery regiment, which had a strength of 1,200 men.
 - a. About twelve 120 mm guns were observed in the courtyard, and an additional number of guns were observed in the garage.
 - b. In the rear courtyard there were 35 prime movers, half of them "Stalinets" track-laying vehicles and the other half consisting of tractors similar to the Hungarian "Hofner" type.
 - c. Ten light trucks were also parked here; 25X1
8. The two buildings formerly used as a gendarmery school housed at the time of observation an armored unit of about 700 men. The following vehicles were parked in the courtyard: about 24 T-34 tanks, 10 armored vehicles, and 8 light trucks 25X1
9. The parking area for tanks located in the Herincs gardens was occupied by 40 T-34 tanks and 30 Stalin III tanks. The area was surrounded by a barbed wire enclosure 3 meters high and was guarded by soldiers with black insignia, trimmed with red.
10. In the Milleneum gardens there were about 35 T-34 and Stalin III camouflaged tanks.
11. The Halladás playing field was used as a parking area for about 45 tank, both T-34 and Stalin III, as well as for 12 SU100 pieces. All of them were camouflaged.
12. The Szent István park was used as a parking area for light trucks and for armored trucks, but not for tanks. There were about 100 light trucks with a 3½ - ton capacity and about 25 armored trucks. 25X1
13. The water tower of the city has been converted by the Soviets into a gasoline tank. It was surrounded by barbed wire for a perimeter of about 60 meters and the access to the tower was barred by a wooden barrier. All around the tower there were gasoline drums, each with a capacity of 200 liters. The drums were divided into three groups; one them, in the form of pyramid, contained more than 200 drums full of gasoline. In this area there were 6 gasoline trucks, with a capacity of 3,500 literseach and also 3 electric pumps.
14. In the Fahedy high school there was a Soviet field hospital utilizing Hungarian equipment.

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